

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes October 25, 2010

Attendance:

Members Present:

Susan Austin
Niki Biggs
Bob Coen
Helene Dubay
Reverend Ellison
Keith England
Kathy Halliday
Mike Mathias
Ben Mayforth
Tracy Moore
Marc Weinstein
Andrea Wiley

Members Absent:

Amy Axel
Councilman Guthrie
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Steve Sopol

Associate Members Present:

Joan Loftus

- I. Chairperson Marc Weinstein called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- II. Introductions: Members of the Commission and visitors introduced themselves.
- III. Presentation: Clark Bowie of SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) discussed SALT's 911 emergency flashing lights, which can alert emergency responders and/or neighbors in the event of an emergency. They can be installed in any porch light that is operated by a switch. SALT also provides free cell phones for emergency 911 calls only. To date, SALT has installed 750 emergency flashing lights and distributed 250 emergency cell phones. For more information and an application, contact Mr. Bowie at 410-879-1538 or via email at cpbowie@comcast.net.
- IV. Minutes: The minutes of the September 27, 2010 meeting were approved with corrections.
- V. Committee Reports:

- A. Membership: The County Council has approved the appointments/reappointments of the following members:
- In the category of “County Citizen with a Disability”: Keith W. England, Robert L. Coen, Tracy A. Moore, Alvin Q. Ellison, and Stephen W. Sopel.
 - In the category of “Student Representative”: Benjamin A. Mayforth.
- B. Accessibility Committee:
1. Housing: No new information.
 2. Accessible County Facilities: Sharon Grzanka reported that additional accessible parking has been installed at the County Administrative Office Building at 220 South Main Street, to ensure adequate accessible parking for visitors.
 3. Request for Waiver of the MD Accessibility Code: No new requests for waiver have been received.
 4. Ramps Program: No new ramps.
 5. Operation Access: Sharon Grzanka will contact Sgt. Wilkinson of the Sheriff’s Office about the possibility of a 2010 Holiday Shopping Season Disability Parking Awareness Campaign.
- C. Education Committee: No new information.
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee
1. Web page: Autism Speaks is the “spotlighted” agency on the Commission’s web page. The organization is sponsoring fundraising walks to be held on Saturday, October 30th at M&T Bank Stadium and on Saturday, November 6th at the National Mall in Washington, DC. Mike Mathias invited members to join a local team walking on October 30th or to donate to the team. Bob Coen will be attending the walk in DC. Next agency under the “spotlight” is Harford Habitat for Humanity’s Fix It Up Program.
 2. Legislative Committee:
 - Sharon Grzanka referred members to the Maryland Disability Forum’s web page at www.mddforum.org for information on the Gubernatorial Candidates Forum and the positions of the candidates on disability-related issues.

- Bob Coen reported that he had provided feedback to the Board of Elections on accessibility at early voting in Harford County.
- E. Transportation Committee: Marc Weinstein reported that the goal of the committee is to increase ridership on the current transportation options with the eventual goal of increasing transportation options. To support these goals, the committee is working on a comprehensive plan to outreach to potential Harford Transit riders. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17, at 1:00 p.m. at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Library.
- F. Voice of the Disability Community
1. Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions on Disabilities: no new information.
 2. Maryland Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF): Cancelled this year due to funding cuts.
 3. Jurisdictional Planning Group (JPG): Members of the JPG are invited to attend training on crisis de-escalation with guest speaker Victor Welzant to be held on Thursday, December 9, 2010 from 8:30-4:00 p.m. at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Public Library. The training is offered by the Harford County Office on Mental Health with support from the Department of Community Services Local Management Board.
- G. Employment Committee: Co-chair Niki Biggs reported that:
1. The annual Employment Awards Luncheon was held on Thursday, October 21, 2010 at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs.
 2. Harford County resident Lester Harris was the keynote speaker.
 3. The event was a great success with a larger than usual attendance.
- VI. Disabilities Coordinator Report: The Local Management Board Ready by 21 Task Force will meet on Wednesday, November 3, 2010, from 8:00-10:30 a.m. in the dining room of the Chesapeake Center at Harford Community College. The topic is employment and the public is invited to provide input.

- VII. Old Business: Sharon Grzanka distributed the corrected version of the Commission's 2010 Annual Report, which has been presented to the County Executive and the members of the County Council and is available on line at <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities/AnnualReport.pdf> .
- VIII. New Business: There was none.
- IX. Public Comment and Announcements:
- A. Bob Coen asked about the status of the Baltimore region's Center for Independent Living. No new information available.
 - B. Susan Austin reminded members that students in the Future Link Program are available to fold flyers/assemble mailings.
- X. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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410-638-3373 voice/TTY or disability@harfordcountymd.gov.*